

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01814 142037Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12 AF-10 HA-05
/104 W

-----058729 142039Z /46

O 142034Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2562
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 01814

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, TD, CU, UR
SUBJECT: TRINIDADIAN REACTION TO SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE
IN AFRICA

REF: A) STATE 148740; B) PORT OF SPAIN 768 (NOTAL)

1. THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE HERE THAT THE GOTT HAS STRONG VIEWS ON THE SOVIET/CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA. WE SURMISE THAT THE GOTT IS AT LEAST UNEASY OVER THAT ROLE BUT DOES NOT FEEL STRONGLY ENOUGH ABOUT IT TO TAKE A STAND OR EVEN COMMENT PUBLICLY ON IT.

2. AS IN OTHER AREAS OF GOTT POLICY, PM ERIC WILLIAMS DETERMINES THE OFFICIAL POSITION. OVER THE YEARS HE HAS SHOWN SOME AMBIVALENCE TOWARDS THE USSR AND, IN PARTICULAR, CUBA. WHILE IT HAS SEEMED AT TIMES IN THE PAST FEW YEARS THAT CUBAN/T&T RELATIONS MIGHT BEGIN TO BLOSSOM, MOST RECENTLY THEY HAVE BEEN COOL BUT CORRECT, FROM THE GOTT SIDE AT LEAST (SEE REF B). THE GOTT HAS DISCOURAGED INCREASED CONTACTS WITH CUBA IN A NUMBER OF AREAS. MOREOVER, IT HAS DENIED CUBAN REQUESTS FOR USE OF T&T AIR SPACE AND FACILITIES FOR TRANSPORTING MEN AND EQUIPMENT
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PAGE 02 PORT O 01814 142037Z

TO AFRICA. THIS MAY WELL INDICATE DISAPPROVAL OF CUBA'S AFRICAN ADVENTURES, OR PERHAPS THE GOTT'S UNWILLINGNESS TO BECOME INVOLVED IN AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM WHICH IT DOES NOT PERCEIVE AS AFFECTING ITS VITAL INTERESTS. ONLY ERIC WILLIAMS KNOWS FOR CERTAIN.

3. IN LIGHT OF THE FOREGOING, WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOTT

HAS NEITHER DEFINED NOR CONSIDERED A PRESCRIPTION FOR THE
PROBLEM OF SOVIET/CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA. MOREOVER,
WE DOUBT THAT THE GOTT HAS GIVEN SERIOUS THOUGHT TO THE
POTENTIAL FOR DIVISIVENESS SUCH ACTIVITIES MAY HAVE
WITHIN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. FOX

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTO01814
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780249-0122
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780660/aaaabztp.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e36c3289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 148740, 68 PORT OF SPAIN 768
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2357131
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRINIDADIAN REACTION TO SOVIET AND CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA
TAGS: MPOL, TD, CU, UR, XM, XL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e36c3289-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014